

named for short. My orders were to weld the four units into one, all wearing the same badge—crossed machine guns with crown, and a distinguishing arm patch of maroon and gold bars.

Very soon action was to come, the very kind of fighting the Motors were equipped for—and ready for.

When I reached the Sifons, Borden, Fatons and Yukons at VERDREL they were fully trained battle-experienced troops. Usually in a 6-man Vickers gun crew, it is thought satisfactory if 4 out of 6 are first-class gunners. With the Motors all were first-class gunners. It was a great privilege and honour to be chosen to command such a splendid formation, fully mechanized.

VERDREL

Early March 21st, 1918, came a message from Canadian Corps H.Q. at CAMBLAIN L'ABBE to report at once. There I found Generals Currie and Brutinel together. The news was the British Fifth Army wanted the "loan" of the Canadian Motors! General Currie had consented.

Here I quote from the Motors history, pages 33 and 34:

"On the afternoon of 22nd March 1918, at 3 P.M., the Brigade received orders to proceed at once to AMIENS to report to the British Fifth Army. The batteries on VIMY RIDGE were withdrawn and preparations made to move. At 5.30 A.M. on the 23rd, the Motors started for AMIENS, via DIVION—ST. POI — FREVENT — HESDIN — arriving at

AMIENS about noon. After resting on the outskirts of AMIENS until 2.30 P.M., the Brigade proceeded through AMIENS to VILLERS — BRETON-NEAUX, where Fifth Army Headquarters were located, arriving at 4 P.M. Lt.-Col. W. K. Walker, D.S.O., M.C., in Command of the Brigade, had gone on ahead to report. After a conference with Fifth Army "Operations" Staff it was decided to employ the batteries in filling dangerous gaps on any part of the Army front. After the conference with "Operations", Major-General Percy, M.G.G.S. Fifth Army took Lt.-Col. Walker and Major Battersby, M.C., to see General Gough, the Army Commander. General Gough expressed himself as being most pleased with the timely arrival of the Canadian Brigade and said he was sure the Canadians would do well with him in the same way they had done well on every front they had fought. General Gough said the Canadian Brigade was his very last available reinforcement and went on to explain the general policy of his defence. As the battle developed French troops would keep coming to take over positions on his right flank. The third Army, which was daily being reinforced by troops from the North, would take over positions on his left flank." (end of quote)

Before leaving VERDREL on March 23rd, far-seeing General Currie attached to the Motors 20 3-ton lorries from the 2nd Canadian Ammunition Sub Park under Lieutenant Bob Whitcome of Duncan, B.C., a splendid officer. They were soon to become a very real help, but the centre of some controversy.